

ACTION WHA-00

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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
	DATE-00	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	ISNE-00
	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	CRYE-00	BBG-00
	R-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/000W				

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1981

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 003700

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/05/2016

TAGS: MX, PGOV, PINR, PREL

SUBJECT: MEXICAN VOTE RETABULATION UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE
SURPRISESClassified By: Classified by Acting Political Chief Alan D. Meltzer,
Reasons: 1.4(b/d).

1. (C) Summary: Although preliminary election returns released late July 3 showed the PAN's Felipe Calderon with a 1.04 percent lead over the PRD's Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO), the subsequent tabulation of nearly 2.6 million additional votes shrunk this lead to 0.63 percent, or approximately 257,000 votes, with as many as 900,000 additional votes left to count. The Federal Election Institute's (IFE) 300 district councils began retabulating vote totals this morning, and as of late afternoon, had retabulated some 60%.

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[redacted] AMLO's team has demanded that district councils reopen every single ballot box nationwide to recount votes individually, although IFE has made it clear that votes will only be recounted individually when authorized by law, i.e., when there are inconsistencies in the voting tally sheets. IFE contacts predict that once final retabulation results from PAN strongholds are submitted, probably no later than tomorrow, Calderon will continue to enjoy a slim lead. Although IFE may be able to proclaim Calderon the official winner as soon as July 6,

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End summary.

Where Does the Count Stand?

2. (U) As of 20:00 on July 3, IFE finalized its unofficial preliminary vote count (PREP), which included 98.45% of all voting stations nationwide. According to the PREP, the PAN, s Felipe Calderon led the PRD,s Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador by 36.38% to 35.34%, a margin of 1.04%. Vote totals from 1.55% of all voting stations (2,009 in total) did not arrive at IFE on time and therefore could not be included in the PREP. Likewise, as explained below, voting station tally sheets presenting inconsistencies or errors were excluded from the PREP. Under Mexican law, both of these groups of votes are to be included in the vote totals being prepared by each of Mexico,s 300 IFE district councils, starting July 5.

The Myth of the Missing Votes

3. (U) In a July 4 press conference, the PRD charged that over three million votes had been &lost8 and were not reflected in the PREP,s vote totals. The PRD noted that while the IFE,s declared national participation rate of 58.9 percent would equal a total of 42.1 million votes, in fact only 38.5 million votes for President were reflected in the PREP,s totals, suggesting that over three million votes had mysteriously disappeared.

4. (U) In a statement released later on July 4, IFE President Luis Carlos Ugalde explained that such votes were not missing and indeed had been registered by IFE, albeit they were not included in the PREP. He said that under the PREP,s rules, agreed to well in advance of the election by the political parties, voting station tabulations that presented errors or inconsistencies would be registered as having been received) and are therefore reflected in the 98.45 percent of ballot box tallies received) but not included in the candidate vote totals. Rather, they were to be included in a &file of inconsistencies8 to be verified subsequently by the corresponding IFE district councils and added to the district council,s final vote total.

5. (U) More specifically, Ugalde explained that tallies from 11,184 ballot boxes, representing a total of 2,581,226

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votes, had been included in the &file of inconsistencies.⁸ Broken down by candidate, 889,971 of these votes were for AMLO and 743,795 for Calderon. Including these votes in the totals captured by the PREP, Calderon,s lead over AMLO shrinks to 0.63% or a total of 257,532 votes.

6. (SBU) As noted above, votes from 1.55 percent of voting stations (according to a press report, approximately 900,000 votes) have not yet been reflected in any vote total. We are not aware of any a priori reason to believe these votes will differ considerably from the overall vote trend, as the uncounted tally sheets appear to be distributed nationwide. In fact, by far the largest number of uncounted vote tallies comes from Chihuahua, a state that Calderon won with over 2.5 times as many votes as AMLO.

The Retabulation Begins

7. (U) The next step in the vote counting process is the electoral district count, which began at 08:00 today. At this time, IFE,s 300 district councils began meeting in continuous session to retabulate the election results from each of the voting stations within that electoral district. It is this retabulation, and not the PREP, that produces the official election result to be certified by IFE.

8. (U) The Mexican electoral code sets forth a very clear procedure in carrying out the retabulation. District councils, working in the presence of political party representatives, open the electoral packet from each voting station and compare the tally sheet in that packet to the tally sheet that already is in the possession of the district council. If the vote totals on the tally sheet in the electoral packet and the sheet in the possession of the district council are identical, than those totals are treated as final and added to the district,s final tally sheet. Representatives of the political parties also have a copy of the tally sheet and can confirm that the number of votes being recorded by the district equals the number counted on Election Day.

IFE Refuses to Bow to AMLO,s Demand

9. (SBU) AMLO,s team has demanded a vote-by-vote recount in all of the over 130,000 voting stations nationwide,

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warning that it would refuse to recognize the final result unless there were such a recount. Under Mexican law, however, a vote-by-vote recount for a particular voting station is only authorized under four conditions: (1) when the tally sheet in the electoral packet and the tally sheet in the possession of the district council differ, (2) when there appear to have been alterations in either of those tally sheets, (3) when either the district council or the electoral packet is missing its tally sheet, or (4) when the electoral packet appears to have been altered. IFE President Ugalde has made it clear that district councils are not authorized to recount votes one-by-one unless, in the determination of the council, one of the foregoing legal criteria are met.

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Prepare for a Long Ride

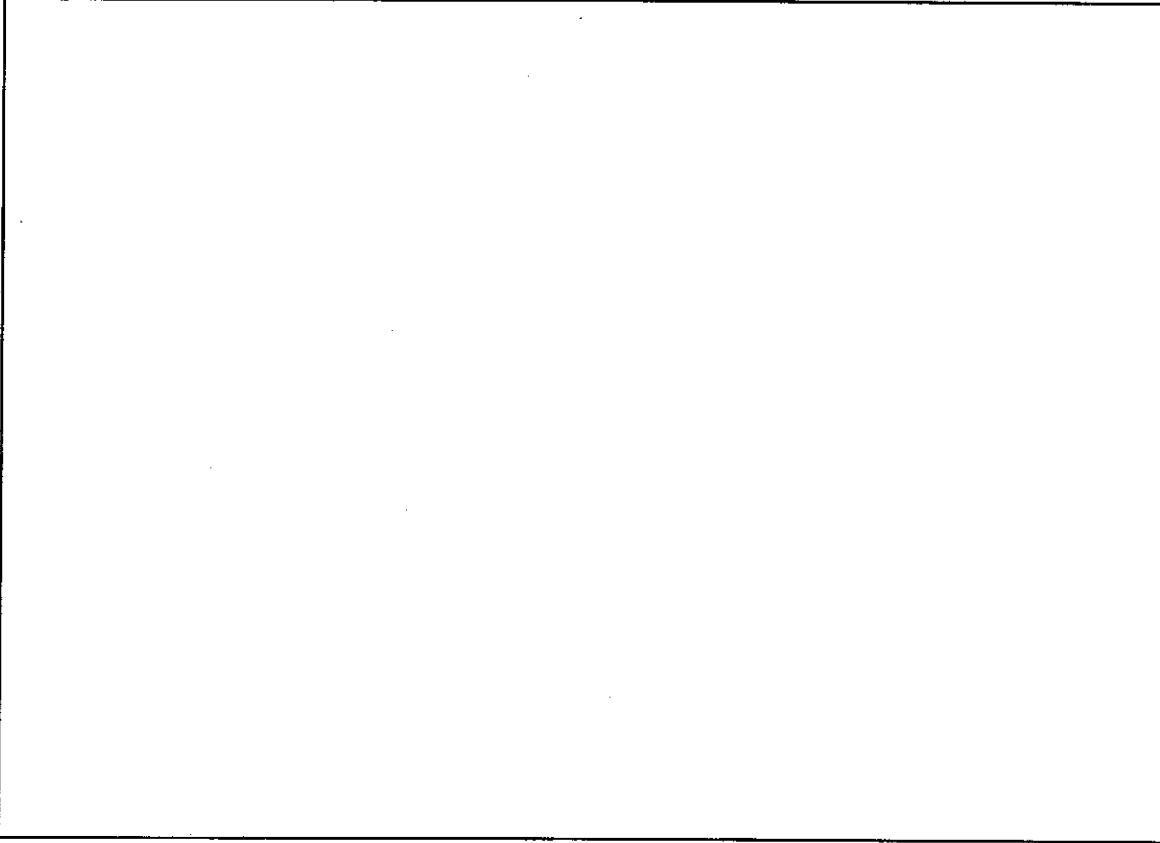
12. (SBU) Once IFE declares an official winner, which could be as soon as July 6, the parties will have the opportunity to file complaints with the electoral tribunal,

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an opportunity which we expect the PRD to seize. By Thursday, August 31, the tribunal must resolve any hearings on such complaints; it is required to certify a winner no later than September 6. Accordingly, it is possible there will not be complete closure until September 6.

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